UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEATHER BUREAU
Washington .

Office of the Chief

October 15, 1934.

CIRCULAR

Taking of Surface Observations by Weather Bureau and Department of Commerce Personnel.

Agreement has been reached between the Bureau of Air Commerce of the Department of Commerce and the Weather Bureau to the effect that all surface observations at points where both Bureau of Air Commerce and Weather Bureau employees are stationed at the airport be taken by the personnel of one or the other of the two Bureaus, except that all four-hourly observations will be taken by Weather Bureau employees when they are on duty. This decision was reached in order to place the work at all points on a definite basis, with due regard to the importance of the point as a terminal, the nature of the work as regards communications and weather service, and various other factors. Accordingly, there follows a list in which the status of each airport station or first-order station located at airports primarily for airways service is indicated with respect to the foregoing, i. e., whether all surface observations will be taken by Bureau of Air Commerce or by Weather Bureau employees. This list will be regarded as a definite assignment of the status of the station.

(WB) indicates that all surface observations will be taken by Weather Bureau employees.

(BAC) indicates that all surface observations, except the four-hourly observations when Weather Bureau employees are on duty will be taken by Bureau of Air Commerce employees.

Note:- All airport stations are listed irrespective of whether or not there is Department of Commerce personnel at the point in question.

Albany, N. Y. (BAC)

Albuquerque, N. Mex. (WB)

Amarillo, Texas (WB)

Atlanta, Ga. (WB)

Bellefonte, Pa. (BAC)

Big Spring, Texas (BAC)

Billings, Mont. (WB)

Boise, Idaho (BAC)

Boston, Mass. (WB)

Brownsville, Texas (WB)

Buffalo, N. Y. (WB)

Burbank, Calif. (WB)

Charleston, S. C. (BAC)

Cheyenne, Wyo. (WB)

Chicago, Ill. (WB)

Cincinnati, Ohio (BAC)

Cleveland, Ohio (WB)

Columbus, Ohio (WB)

Dallas, Texas (WB)
Denver, Colo. (WB)
Detroit, Mich. (WB)
Elko, Nevada (BAC)
El Paso, Texas (WB)
Fargo, N. Dak. (BAC)
Fresno, Calif. (WB)
Greensboro, N. C. (WB)
Houston, Texas (BAC)
Indianapolis, Ind. (WB)
Jackson, Miss. (BAC)
Jacksonville, Fla. (WB)
Kansas City, Mo. (WB)
Kingman, Ariz. (BAC)
Medford, Oreg. (WB)
Memphis, Tenn. (WB)
Miami, Fla. (WB)
Moline, Ill. (WB)
Murfreesboro, Tenn. (WB)
Newark, N. J. (WB)
New Orleans, La. (WB)
North Platte, Nebr. (BAC)
Oakland, Calif. (WB)
Oklahoma City, Okla. (WB)
Omaha, Nebr. (WB)
Pasco, Wash. (WB)
Phoenix, Ariz. (WB)
Pittsburgh, Pa. (WB)
Portland, Oreg. (WB)
Redding, Calif. (WB)
Reno, Nevada (WB)
Richmond, Va. (WB)
Rock Springs, Wyo. (BAC)
St. Louis, Mo. (WB)
St. Paul, Minn. (WB)
Salt Lake City, Utah (WB)
San Diego, Calif. (BAC)
Seattle, Wash. (WB)
Spartanburg, S. C. (BAC)
Spokane, Wash. (WB)
Washington-Hoover Airport (WB)
Wichita, Kansas (WB)
Winslow, Ariz. (WB)

Where air traffic warrants, the assignment of Weather Bureau employees at airports is made for the purpose of preparing manuscript surface and upper air charts, giving professional meteorological advice concerning weather developments, dispelling questions and criticisms of observations, contacting pilots and operators, taking pilot balloon observations, airplane observations and 4-hourly observations, and in many cases supervising the service given by airways and "on call" stations. At stations where only sixteen hours service is required each day, three men are assigned, and where 24-hour service is required at least four men are assigned.

The Central Office considers that a force of four Weather Bureau employees is sufficient to maintain 24-hour weather reporting service at stations where airplane observations are not taken or 4-hourly airways forecasts are not made, and the foregoing list is based on the presumption of bringing the number of personnel up to this standard at points where this is necessary and reducing the personnel at points where four or more men are now assigned but at which the Department of Commerce personnel will take the surface observations. These adjustments will be taken up direct with the stations concerned and completed prior to November 15, 1934.

Beginning November 15, 1934, the work at all stations will be conducted as indicated in the foregoing list of assignments.

In connection with the Weather Bureau employees taking the 4-hourly observations while on duty, arrangements shall be made locally with the Operator in Charge of the Bureau of Air Commerce radio or teletype station to the end that a definite schedule shall be arranged showing the 4-hourly record observation to be taken by the Weather Bureau personnel. This is necessary in order to prevent duplication of observations and will be definitely arranged and meticulously carried out at all stations concerned. Only the actual four-hourly observations themselves will be taken by the Weather Bureau personnel, although it is considered proper to cooperate with the Commerce personnel by taking observations upon request during such periods as they may be unable to do so due to an emergency.

At stations where all observations are to be taken by Weather Bureau employees, it will be proper at times of balloon runs to advise the Commerce operator on duty that unless otherwise advised the last Record observation will be used as the succeeding check observations and that ditto marks with new times should be entered on the form. This provision will allow long balloon runs to be taken in settled weather, while in changeable weather, short balloon runs will be the rule allowing for check and special observations to be taken as usual.

The cooperation of all personnel is requested and desired in carrying out this program. Problems arising in connection therewith will be referred <u>with complete details</u> to the Central Office.

Copies of this Circular are being furnished to the Department of Commerce for distribution to the stations and personnel of that Department concerned.

W. R. Gregg,
Chief of Bureau.